SHONEN JUMP MANGA

vol. 22

NISEKOI

False Love

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

I turned 30. People say that once you're 30, you have less stamina, and you can't push yourself as hard...that sort of thing. But I still feel like I can do anything! I'm still going strong!

Naoshi Komi

NAOSHI KOMI was born in Kochi Prefecture, Japan, on March 28, 1986. His first serialized work in *Weekly Shonen Jump* was the series *Double Arts*. His best-selling shonen manga series *Nisekoi* is available in North America from VIZ Media.

NISEKOI:
False Love
VOLUME 22
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
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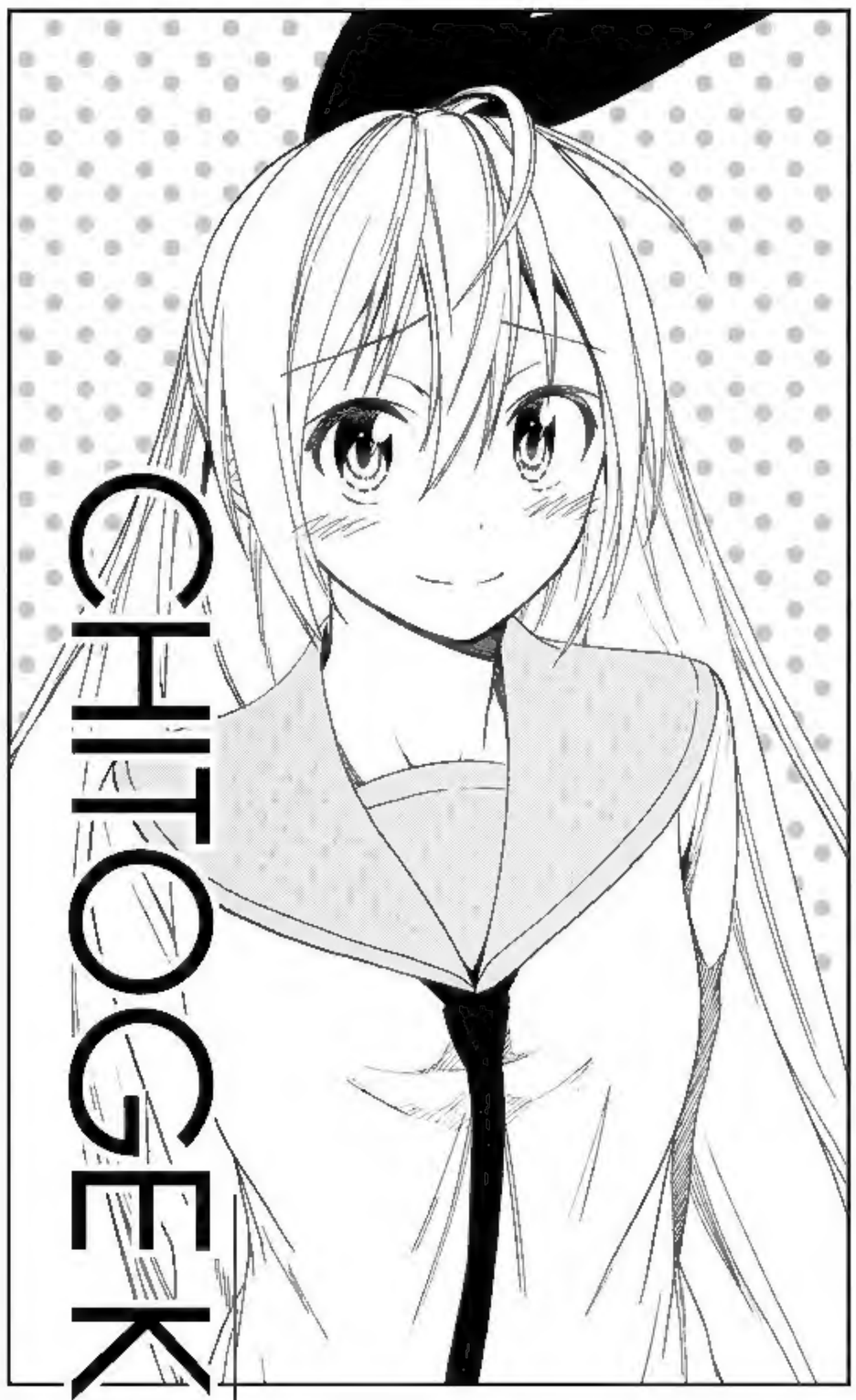
Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

NISEKOI
False Love

vol. 22: Bull's-Eye

KOSAKI ONODERA

A girl Raku has a crush on. Beautiful and sweet, Kosaki has no shortage of admirers. She's a terrible cook but makes food that *looks* amazing.



CHITOGE KIRISAKI

A half-Japanese bombshell with stellar athletic abilities. Short-tempered and violent. Comes from a family of gangsters.

SHU MAIKO

Raku's best friend is outgoing and girl-crazy.

RAKU ICHIJO

A normal teen whose family happens to be yakuza. Cherishes a pendant given to him by a girl he met ten years ago.

RURI MIYAMOTO

Kosaki's best gal pal. Comes off as aloof, but is actually a devoted and highly intuitive friend.

YUI KANAKURA

A childhood friend of Raku's, Yui is the head of a Chinese mafia gang and the homeroom teacher of Raku's class at his school. She was staying at Raku's house and confessed her love to him. Also has a key linked to some kind of promise...

MARIKA TACHIBANA

Daughter of the chief of police, Marika is Raku's fiancée, according to an agreement made by their fathers—an agreement Marika takes very seriously! Also has a key and remembers making a promise with Raku ten years ago.

CHARACTERS & STORY

Ten years ago, Raku Ichijo made a promise with a girl he loved that they would get married when they met again...and he still treasures the pendant she gave him to seal their pledge.

Thanks to his family's circumstances, Raku has to pretend he's dating Chitoge Kirisaki, the daughter of a rival gangster. Despite their constant spats, Raku and Chitoge manage to fool everyone. Chitoge also has a token from her first love ten years ago—an old key. Meanwhile, Raku's crush, Kosaki, also has a key, as do Marika, the girl Raku's father has arranged for him to marry, and Yui, a childhood friend who's their homeroom teacher. After Yui's confession of love, Marika also approaches Raku with her sincere feelings. But before Raku gives her an answer, Marika's family forces her to come back to her hometown to get married. With the help of his friends, Raku heads to Kyushu to find out what Marika really wants...

SEISHIRO TSUGUMI

Trained as an assassin in order to protect Chitoge, Tsugumi is often mistaken for a boy.

HARU ONODERA

Kosaki's adoring younger sister. Has a low opinion of Raku.

NISEKOI
False Love

vol. 22: Bull's-Eye

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WHAT'S KEEPING YOU?

Chapter-189:-Marriage

BEG YOUR PARDON! RIGHT AWAY, MA'AM!

HURRY UP.

THE CEREMONY IS ABOUT TO START.

I MET THE OBJECT OF YOUR AFFECTIONS.

THAT RAKU ICHIJO BOY.

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HIM.

OH, PLEASE.

DON'T GLARE AT ME LIKE THAT.

THAT PART IS UP TO YOU.

IF YOU HARM ANY OF MY FRIENDS...

HE'S SAFE AND SOUND IN THE DUNGEON.

ALONG WITH YOUR OTHER FRIENDS.

SO IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN, I'M SURE THE PUBLIC WOULD TAKE IT IN STRIDE.

AND YOUR FATHER IS THE CHIEF OF POLICE.

...

...IS INVOLVED IN A RATHER UNSAVORY LINE OF WORK.

I UNDER-STAND HIS FAMILY...

I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO HARM MY PRECIOUS DAUGHTER'S FRIENDS.

AS LONG AS YOU DO, YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE FINE.

YOU CAN PREVENT THAT BY COOPERATING.

SKWEEZ

SEE YOU SOON.

KCHAM

YOU'LL MAKE A LOVELY BRIDE.

WHAT IS THIS, ANYWAY?

HEY...

IT'LL TAKE US TO MARIKA'S ROOM WITHOUT BEING SEEN!

THEY GO ALL OVER THE CASTLE.

IT'S ONE OF THE CASTLE'S SECRET PASSAGE-WAYS.

WE'VE GOT ONE CHANCE! RIGHT BEFORE THE WEDDING!

ONCE THE CEREMONY STARTS, OUR HANDS ARE TIED!

NOW LISTEN UP!

IF WE'RE GONNA PULL THIS OFF, TIMING IS KEY!

MISTRESS CHIKA...

JUST A BIT FARTHER!

WE SHOULD GET THERE ABOUT TEN MINUTES BEFORE IT BEGINS.

JUST BARELY.

WELL...

ARE WE GOING TO MAKE IT IN TIME?

I SEE...

...

SOME-THING MAY BE AFOOT...

THE GUARD IN THE DUNGEON ISN'T RESPONDING TO MY CALLS.

NO MATTER WHAT.

THEN DON'T TELL HER.

NOT YET.

DOES MY DAUGHTER KNOW?

?!

WHA...

WE'LL START THE WEDDING EARLY.

AN HOUR EARLIER.

...

AND ALSO ...

THE GROOM IS HERE, IS HE NOT?

I SEE NO PROB-LEM.

IF WE START EARLY...

THINK OF ALL THE GUESTS...

WE CAN'T DO THAT, MISTRESS CHIKA!

YES, MA'AM. ...

AS LONG AS MY DAUGHTER IS WED, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

NOW DO AS I SAY.

NEVER MIND THE GUESTS.

...MIS-
TRESS...

YOU LOOK
STUNNING...

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU HAD EMOTIONS.

IS THAT SO?

THE SENTI-MENT IS QUITE GENUINE, MIS-TRESS.

I THOUGHT ALL THAT MATTERED TO YOU WERE MY MOTHER'S ORDERS.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR FALSE SENTIMENT ...

...HONDA.

...BESIDES RAKU DEAREST?

WHO DID SHE CATCH...

...

NO.

WAS ANYONE HURT?

I CANNOT DISCLOSE THAT INFORMATION.

THEN I'LL ASK SOMETHING ELSE.

THAT'S GOOD.

OH.

I NEVER EXPECTED THEM TO RESCUE ME ANYWAY.

I WAS JUST CONCERNED SHE MIGHT HARM THEM.

I CAN GET MARRIED WITH NO REGRETS.

IN THAT CASE...

KREAK

...NO HARM WILL COME TO MY FRIENDS.

THIS WAY, AS LONG AS I COOPERATE...

I'M GLAD THEY WERE APPREHENDED.

MISTRESS, IT'S TIME.

THIS WAY, PLEASE.

KCHAK

I'M SO GLAD...

SO GLAD...

THIS IS FINE...

YES...

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MARIKA.

TODAY...

AND BEYOND TODAY...THIS IS QUITE A PLEASURE.

THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU TOO.

...THE BRIDE AND GROOM!

CHATTER

CHATTER

AND NOW, PRE-SENTING ...

TA-DAA

...I HEREBY TAKE THEE, TO LOVE AND TO CHERISH...

IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH...

...THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN IF RAKU DEAREST DIDN'T RETURN MY LOVE.

I KNEW ALL ALONG...

—

...FOR A WHILE NOW...

...THAT HE WOULDN'T CHOOSE ME.

—

...AND TO CHERISH ...

I'VE KNOWN...

BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE TO HEAR HIS RESPONSE, ANYWAY...

AND DO YOU, MARIKA ...

...SWEAR YOUR UNDYING LOVE?

...I WANTED TO HEAR HIM SAY IT TO ME.

...CONSTI-TUTES YOUR PLEDGE.

YOUR SILENCE...

EVEN THOUGH I KNEW HIS ANSWER...

JUST ONCE MORE...

...AND KISS THE BRIDE...

YOU MAY NOW EXCHANGE RINGS...

IF ONLY I'D SEEN HIM... JUST ONCE MORE...

...

ARE YOU REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS?

Y-YES...

RAKU DEAREST...

RAKU DEAREST...

ハッピーエンド!!

ガチャ

ガシャン

ドサッ

ハッピーエンド!!

KIIIII

HAHH...!

HM?

CHATTER

IS IT ME OR DID IT JUST GET STRANGELY LOUD IN THERE?

UM...

CHATTER

CHATTER

WHAT'S WRONG?

Chapter 190: Whisk Me Away

ANYWAY, WE'D BETTER HURRY!!

HALF THE GUESTS AREN'T EVEN HERE YET!

WHY DID THEY SUDDENLY MOVE THE CEREMONY UP AN HOUR?

ALMOST!

IS THE HALL READY?

IT'S ALREADY 10:45!!

SO IT STARTS AT 11 NOW?!

NO WAY!! WHY?!

BY AN HOUR ...?!

THEY MOVED THE CEREMONY UP?!

WHAT'LL WE DO?!

NO!!

IT'S TOO LATE!!

SO MUCH FOR CATCHING HER ON THE WAY!!

THEN MARIKA MUST ALREADY BE THERE!!

WELL, OBVIOUSLY, WE GO STRAIGHT TO THE HALL!

NOW WHAT?

CHATTER CHATTER

BUT THAT'S CRAZY!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE HER MA WOULD GO THIS FAR!!

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING ?!

WE KNEW THIS WAS DANGEROUS FROM THE START!

I'M GOING!

WELL, WE CAN'T JUST GIVE UP ON HER!

WE'D NEVER GET HER OUT OF THERE!!

IT'LL BE FULL OF GUARDS... NOT TO MENTION HONDA!!

GO, QUICK!!

WE'LL HOLD THE GUARDS!!

RAKU! YOU GO AHEAD!

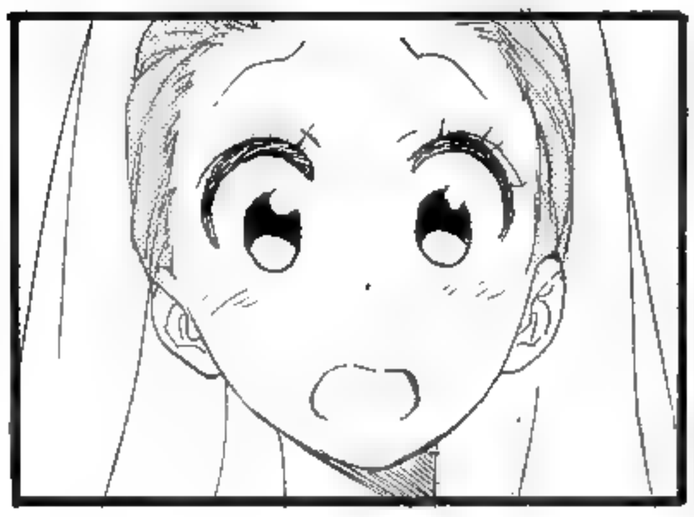
HUH?! WHOZZAT?! WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?!

SLAM

KCHAM!

HAHH...

HAHH...



CHATTER

WHAT'S GOING ON??

"STOP THE WEDDING" ?!

CHATTER

CHATTER

DOES HE KNOW THE BRIDE?

WHAT'S THIS?

WHERE DID THAT BOY COME FROM?!

CHATTER

RA...

...

MARIKA!

SEND HIM AWAY...

CHILDREN CERTAINLY ARE A HANDFUL.

GOOD HEAVENS. WHAT A NUISANCE.

...IF YOU REFUSE.

YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN...

HE HAS TO HEAR IT FROM YOU.

MARIKA, YOU TELL HIM.

SHUP

...UNBELIEVABLE! SHE'S...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHY, RAKU ICHIJO!

HAHH...

WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?

DID YOU COME TO STOP MY WEDDING?

I MARRY THIS MAN OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

IF SO, YOU'RE QUITE MISTAKEN!

PERHAPS YOU HARBOR THE ILLUSION THAT THIS MARRIAGE IS AGAINST MY WILL?

I NO LONGER HOLD THE SLIGHTEST SENTIMENT FOR YOU!

IF SO, YOU COULDN'T BE MORE MISTAKEN!

...YOU THINK I STILL HARBOR FEELINGS FOR YOU!

PLEASE DON'T TELL ME...

UGH! THE VERY THOUGHT GIVES ME THE CHILLS!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SO ARROGANT THAT YOU CAN'T STAND TO LET ANOTHER MAN HAVE A WOMAN YOU WEREN'T INTERESTED IN!

WHY, YOU HAD NO INTENTION OF RETURNING MY FEELINGS!

THIS IS MY CHANCE TO PUT YOU BEHIND ME AND PURSUE TRUE HAPPINESS!

HAVE THE DECENCY TO INTERFERE NO FURTHER!

PLEASE BEGONE!

BUT...

IF YOU'RE HAPPY, THEN THERE'S NO PROBLEM.

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.

ALL RIGHT.

I HAVE NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE, NOR DO I WANT TO.

...!

...LOOK VERY HAPPY.

YOU SURE DON'T...

!

I CAN'T RETURN YOUR FEELINGS.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

...I WANT TO HELP YOU.

IF YOU NEED HELP...

I CAN'T STAND IDLY BY IF YOU'RE IN A BAD SITUATION.

BUT EVEN SO...

THAT'S RIGHT!

WE'RE FRIENDS!

THAT'S MY ANSWER.

YOU'RE A VERY DEAR FRIEND.

NOW AND FOREVER!

SO...

BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS!

AS A FRIEND, TACHI-BANA...

WILL YOU LET ME HELP YOU?

I WAS SO SCARED TO HEAR IT...

BUT I WANTED TO ANYWAY.

AND NOW...

A...

...FRIEND...

THAT'S... HIS ANSWER...

MARIKA
...

...

STOMP!!!

KRUNCH!!!

FWOOSH!

SHF
SHF
WHSHH
WHSHH
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHAKA
SHP
YANK
RAKU DEAREST ...

PLEASE...

...WHISK ME AWAY!

FINAL

YOU GOT IT!!

!!

SHOOP!!

WHSH!!

HUBBUB TMP

HUBBUB TMP

TMP

HONORED GUESTS... PLEASE EVACUATE IN AN ORDERLY MANNER THROUGH THE EMERGENCY EXIT!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! PLEASE REMAIN CALM!

SNIFFLE

HUBBUB HUBBUB

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

...

WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?

SHEESH ...

REJECTING A GIRL IN FRONT OF A HUGE CROWD? THAT'S HARSH.

THIS ISN'T THE TIME!

I CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER!

NEVER MIND!

OR IS HE JUST KEEPING UP OUR FAKE DATING ACT?

...HOW RAKU REALLY FEELS ABOUT MARIKA?

IS THAT...

HURG!! BLRFF!!

OOG ...?!

KAFWUMP

?!!

HUH?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WOW! YOUR COOKING HASN'T LOST ITS TOUCH!

W-WHAT'S HAPPENING ?!

THEY ALL JUST COLLAPSED ...

?

WHAT'RE YOU TWO DOING HERE?!

Didn't you know?

SHINOHARA SENT US IN UNDERCOVER.

BUT...I THOUGHT IT CAME OUT WELL FOR ONCE!

MIYAMOTO?! AND ONODERA?!

HELLO THERE, ICHIJO.

I MADE THESE...

ALL RIGHT.

KA

TUNK

WHAT?! COOKING?! BUT I'M AN AWFUL COOK!

JUST DO YOUR BEST!

IN SHORT...

KEEP IT UP!!

YOUR COOKING'S GREAT TODAY!

R-REALLY? *HEH HEH...* WELL, OKAY...

THESE ARE ALL REALLY GOOD!

HUH ?!

WOW... DELI-CIOUS!

SHOOP

SWAP

CHOMP

SWAP

THE REST IS UP TO YOU.

WELL, YOU'VE GOT HALF AS MANY NOW.

Hang in there, buddy!

Oof...

Yo, you okay?!

My stomach...

GOT IT!!

THAT'S PRETTY SNEAKY.

AND THEN I PASSED THEM OUT TO THE GUARDS...

LET'S GET TACHIBANA OUTTA HERE!!

ALL RIGHT!

THIS IS IT, GUYS!

YEAH!

SHP

Chapter 191: Finally

THIS WAY, MISTRESS CHIKA!

MISTRESS CHIKA! LET'S GET YOU TO SAFETY!

SHOOP

TMP

YOU TOO, YOUNG MISTRESS.

WILL YOU GO QUIETLY, OR MUST I RESTRAIN YOU?

!!

HONDA!

?

BRING ME A CHAIR, PLEASE.

BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO RESTRAIN ME.

YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO GO QUIETLY?

THUD!

TUNK

RAKU DEAREST WILL COME FOR ME!

NEVER FEAR!

THE PRINCESS AWAITS HER KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR!

I'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE.

KA

CHAK

SHOULDN'T YOU BE ATTENDING TO MY MOTHER?

...

I'M SURE YOU HAVE PLENTY TO DO. WHY DON'T YOU RUN ALONG?

I'LL COVER YOU.

YOU AND THE MISTRESS GET PAST THE GUARDS AND MAKE YOUR WAY TO MARIKA TACHIBANA.

I'LL HANDLE HONDA.

DON'T WORRY.

THAT DISGRACE WON'T BE REPEATED.

SKWEEZ

THIS TIME...

HONDA BEAT YOU LAST TIME...

YOU SURE?

DON'T RUB SALT IN MY WOUNDS!

BA

MM

I'M PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS.

KA

SHUP!!

CHING

A LING

SHEESH ...

WHAT A HANDFUL ...

KRAK

KRAKA KRAKA

KRAK

WAIT A SEC...

NO WAY...

HUH?

Wha—

A-I-YEE!!

KA-KE-W

A-A-!!

RATTLE RATTLE

OH... RIGHT!!

WHAT ?!

NOW!! YOU TWO!! YIKES!

That's gotta hurt...

O-OKAY!

ONODERA AND MIYAMOTO, YOU TWO GET TO SAFETY!

EEEEEK!!

VWAA SHOOP

SH!!

VWAM

WASH

BUT WE JUST GOTTA GO FOR IT NOW!

I DECIDED TO GAMBLE ON THESE PEOPLE...

NOTHING'S GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!

HOPE EVERY-ONE'S OKAY...

YEESH! WHATTA CRAZY OPERATION!

HYAAAA!!

I'VE JUST GOTTA BELIEVE IN THEM NOW!!

WHAK

WHA —?!

Oops.

RAKU!! WATCH OUT!!

SHOOP

WATCH OUT, CHITOGE!!

TAKTAKTAKTAK

SHOOP

GASP!

TH-THANKS!

PAY ATTENTION!

WHOOPS! SORRY!!

Owieee!!

Just a gut reaction...

OOPS. SORRY.

OWW!!

WHAT'D I DO?!

BLUSH...

...AWAY!!

...GET...

YOU...

...WON'T...

Oh!

NEXT TIME WARN ME BEFORE YOU GRAB ME!

THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT!

GRR...

KA FWAM

AAAAAH?!

SHOOSH

WA SH

TSUGUMI !!

Thank you!!

I WOULDN'T CALL IT A PIECE OF CAKE...

I SUPPOSE IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE IF YOU GIVE IT YOUR ALL?

SO, YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE ME AND BACK THEM UP?!

IT DEFINITELY TAKES VIGILANCE.

SHOOP

BUT IF I COULDN'T HANDLE THIS SITUATION ...

HANDLING YOU AND SUPPORTING THEM...

...I COULD HARDLY CALL MYSELF THE MISTRESS'S BODYGUARD!

TAK TAK TAK TAK

I FIND THIS DIFFICULT TO COMPRE-HEND.

I ALREADY TOLD YOU- THIS IS AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY.

EVEN IF YOU DO RESCUE MARIKA, SHE CANNOT RETURN TO BONYARI HIGH.

WHY?

VWIP

SHING

CHANG

KLANG

WHY HAVEN'T YOU TOLD YOUR MISTRESS AND RAKU ICHIJO?

JUST LIKE SHINOHARA!

EVEN IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, THERE'S A POINT TO RESCUING MARIKA TACHIBANA RIGHT NOW, IS THERE NOT?

YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY, DON'T YOU?

YOU'RE CONFLICTED, AREN'T YOU?

BOOM

KRASH

...RETURNING MY RING?

WOULD YOU MIND...

Oh... You're still here?

I KNOW I'VE BEEN QUITE SELFISH.

I'M TER-RIBLY SORRY.

BUT I...

RUINING THE WEDDING AND ALL...

I KNOW THIS IS TERRIBLY INCON-SIDERATE OF ME.

...ONCE BELONGED TO MY WIFE.

?!

THAT RING...

NO...

QUITE THE CON-TRARY.

SHOOP

THAT'S WHY I WAS UNABLE TO DENY HER REQUEST THAT WE MARRY.

I'M TERRIBLY INDEBTED TO HER.

YOUR MOTHER DID QUITE A LOT FOR US WHEN SHE WAS SICK.

...DIED OF AN ILLNESS.

MY WIFE...

...ARE STRIVING TO FIND YOUR OWN WAY, OF YOUR OWN VOLITION.

I FIND THAT VERY INSPIRING.

BUT YOU...

...AND YOUR FRIENDS...

YES...

YOU TOO!

I DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL MEET AGAIN...

...BUT I WISH YOU LUCK!

I WON'T GIVE UP EITHER!

LOOM!!

STAY AWAY FROM MISTRESS MARIKA!!

WE GOTTA STOP THEM!

DANG... WE'RE THE LAST ONES?!

WE WERE SO CLOSE...!

And they're huge!

HAHH...

HAHH...

RATS!

MIS-TRESS!

VWASH

NGH!

OH NO, YOU DON'T!

M!!

N-NOW WHAT, RAKU...?!

SHOULD WE JUST TRY AND OVERPOWER THEM AGAINST THE ODDS?!

CHITOGE ...

DO IT.

DO *THAT THING* AGAIN...

DO WHAT?

YOU KNOW...

THAT THING!

?

I AM!!

JUST GO FOR IT!!

YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS... RIGHT?!

OH! WAIT... YOU MEAN...

DING

READY, SET...

GO ON...GIVE IT EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!!

READY, SET...

GLARE

READY?

WHEN I SAY GO, WE GRAB 'EM!

GOOOOOO!!!

WHSH

SHUP!

G-G-G...

HUH?!

KA-

FWAM

GYAAAAAA!!!

GNRF!

OOF!!

ZUSHAAA!

FWUD ROLLAROLLAROLLA

OOF...

OWWW...

HUH?

WELL, AREN'T YA?!

SHEESH! MAKE ME SOUND LIKE SOME KINDA THUG!

WELL, I'VE GOTTEN USED TO GETTING BEAT UP ON A DAILY BASIS.

SHOOP

YOU'RE ACTUALLY PRETTY TOUGH, HUH?

WELL, YOU TOLD ME TO!

YOU REALLY HURLED ME WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.

YEESH ...

Ow-ow-ow...

ANYHOW...

WE MADE IT!

WE'RE FINALLY HERE, MARIKA!

TMP

EEEEEEK!!

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!

TMP

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

WHAT SAFETY?!

HAAAALT!!

ONODERA AND MIYAMOTO, YOU TWO GET TO SAFETY!

WE'RE IN THE LION'S DEN!

Chapter-192:-Sentiment

IN NEED OF ASSIS-TANCE?

WHY HELLO THERE, LADIES!

SHOOP

TMP

UH...

TMP TMP

TMP TMP

NOW WHAT?! THEY'RE GONNA GET US!!

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

SHU IS HERE!

BAM!

NEVER FEAR...

TREAT ME LIKE A HUMAN BEING!!

HEY!!

Ruri...

WHRR WHRR WHRR

What the ...?!

HEY. HE'S ACTUALLY KINDA USEFUL.

BOMP WHOMP

WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP

...??

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP

TRUE.

WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE QUICK!

THEY'RE BOUND TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS SOON!

WELL...

WE MADE IT THIS FAR, BUT NOW WHAT?

YOU DID?!

That was easy?!

I WENT EASY ON HIM!

OH, GIMME A BREAK! IT WAS HIS IDEA!

THAT WAS CERTAINLY QUITE EXTREME... FLINGING RAKU DEAREST LIKE THAT!

It's hard to express appreciation after that...

WHATTA RELIEF!

YOU MANAGED TO MEET UP!

WHERE'D YOU COME FROM ...?

MIKAGE ?!

HOW ARE YA?

!

OH, MAAAAARI-KAAAA!

TIME TO DEPLOY MY SECRET PLAN!

I'LL LET DOWN THE LADDER... YOU CLIMB UP!

SECRET PLAN?

BAM!

Hey!!

This way!

THERE SHE GOES AGAIN...

HUH?! THE CEILING?!

A trapdoor?!

WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP

WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

WHIP WHIP WHIP

DON'T TELL ME...

WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP

TA-DAAAAAA!!

A HELI-COPTER ?!

WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?!

YOU FORGOT, DIDN'T YA?

I'M A LADY OF MEANS, Y'KNOW!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT... MIKAGE HAS MONEY TOO...

Toss

NOW, HURRY!

THIS'LL GET US UP TO THE ROOF!

IT'LL BE SMOOTH SAILING FROM THERE!

KA SH

ING

WHAT?! YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE...

Why, you...

COME ON, CHITOGE, THIS ISN'T THE TIME.

THERE'S NO WAY. CARRY ME, PLEASE. ♡

CAN YOU CLIMB THIS, TACHIBANA?

WHOO

PAH

YOU NEVER QUITE GIVE IT YOUR ALL.

HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL?

THE WAY YOU FIGHT ALWAYS SEEMS CONFLICTED.

YOU'RE LETTING YOUR EMOTIONS GET THE BETTER OF YOU.

...

...IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE YOU FEEL NO KINDNESS TOWARD HER.

FROM THE WAY YOU ARE WITH TACHIBANA...

WHAT'S THE REAL STORY?

NOT EVEN A LITTLE!

WOOSH

PERSONAL SENTIMENT HAS NO PLACE IN MY WORK.

I ALREADY TOLD YOU.

KLINK

KA PA

SHIN

KA

BUT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING, INCLUDING WORK...

...WITHOUT YOUR FEELINGS BEING INVOLVED!

FWOOSH

IT'S TRUE THAT IN OUR WORLD...

...OUR DUTY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR PERSONAL FEELINGS.

CLANK

KA

BASH!!

SHE'S GONE?!

WHERE'D SHE GO?!

HUH?!

WATCH OUT, RAKU ICHIJO!!

OH NO!!

GASP

KA

WOOSH!

TACHI-BANA!

HONDA!

WHA...

PHEW...

WHP!!

FLAP FLAP

WAAAAH!! THE LADDER...!!

OHHH NOOOOOO !!!

FLAP FLAP

Oh...

Guess she's fine...

WHRR-WHRR WHRR

TM P!

AAAAUGH !!

WHSHHH

AAAH!! WHAT ABOUT CHITOGE ...?!

...

WHY, MISTRESS?

BAM BAM BAM

LET ME GO, HONDA!! LET GO!

JUST WHEN IT WAS GETTING GOOD...!

WHY...

...ARE YOU DOING THIS?

...THAT YOU CAN'T ESCAPE YOUR MOTHER.

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE...

WELL...

IT MAKES ME HAPPY.

...THAT THEY CAME AND DID ALL THIS FOR ME.

I'M JUST HAPPY...

I DON'T CARE ABOUT LATER.

AND BESIDES...

EVEN IF THEY KNEW I COULDN'T ESCAPE, I STILL THINK THEY WOULD'VE DONE THIS.

NOT THAT I EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND.

KA

FWAH

BLAM

ACK!

BLAM

BLAM

KAPOW

YES. IMMEDIATELY.

KLANK KSHING

MISTRESS CHIKA! IT SEEMS THEY'VE ARRIVED!

SHALL I SHOW THEM IN?

FOOM

KABOOM

RIGHT AWAY!

YES.

WHSH WHSH WHSH WHSH

?!

SOMETHING'S COMING ...!

KA

BAM...!

WE AWAIT YOUR ORDERS.

WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING.

THAT'S RIGHT. HONDA ISN'T THE ONLY ONE OF HER KIND.

THE OTHERS ARE USUALLY ON ASSIGNMENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

SHADOW GUARD ...?

YOU MEAN, LIKE HONDA?

...SHADOW GUARD!

IT'S THE...

HONDA'S THEIR LEADER, BUT THEY'VE ALL GOT SKILLS ON PAR WITH HERS!

I SURE DIDN'T COUNT ON HER SUMMONING THEM ALL BACK...

EVEN WITH ***SHINOBU*** IN YOUR SERVICE... ABOMINABLE!

I BELIEVE THE LAST TIME WE HAD INTRUDERS WAS DURING THE WARRING STATES PERIOD, WAS IT NOT?

WELL, THIS IS UNUSUAL. INVADERS IN THE CASTLE...

NO.

SHALL WE GET RID OF THE INTRUDERS, MA'AM?

THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.

GET MARIKA.

WHA...

FINE.

WE MIGHT HAVE TO ROUGH THEM UP A BIT...

SHALL WE PROCEED ?

HONDA, YOU GET THAT GIRL.

THAT'S HOW DISCIPLINE WORKS.

WHEN A DAUGHTER ACTS UP, THE PARENT MUST REPRIMAND HER.

YES, MA'AM...

KA SHOO SHOO SHOO SHOOP!!

NOW... GET GOING!

WHSH WHSH WHSH WHSH WHSH

EXCUSE ME, MISTRESS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR MOTHER'S ORDERS, I MUST RESTRAIN YOU NOW.

PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO COOPERATE ...

TACHIBANAAAAAAA!!!

WELL, THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.

...

I THOUGHT ...

...THIS MIGHT HAPPEN.

...

PEASE GET OUT OF THE WAY...

HONDA ...!!

NGH...

...?

HONDA...?

I KNEW ALL ALONG...

...IT WOULD COME TO THIS.

GET READY.

SHOO

NGH!

ALL RIGHT, MIS-TRESS ...

K-POW POW POW POW

...FOR JUST ONE FAVOR?

CAN I ASK...

WAIT...

Chapter-193:-Blast-Off-

YOU SURE ARE A HANDFUL, MISTRESS MARIKA.

SHEESH ...

...I'LL SUPPORT YOU.

IF YOU'RE REALLY THAT SET ON RUNNING OFF WITH ICHIJO AND THE OTHERS...

H-HONDA ?!

...?!

...?!!

HONDA ?!

WHA...

I DON'T EXPECT TO.

SHOOP!

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS...!

YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THE SHADOW GUARD AND SUCCESSOR TO THE NAME ***SHINOBU***!! THIS IS TREASON!!

RIDICU-LOUS!!

YOU SPOKE THE TRUTH. I LIED WHEN I SAID MY PERSONAL FEELINGS AREN'T INVOLVED.

TSU-GUMI...

IN FACT...

...I FUNCTION ALMOST PURELY ON SENTIMENT.

WHAT IS IT?

A FAVOR?

...YOU'LL COME TO HER AID.

IF AND WHEN MARIKA'S REALLY IN HOT WATER...

...TO GRANT YOUR FAVOR.

I SEE NO NEED...

...BUT... EVEN SO...

OF COURSE, YOU'LL HAVE TO DISOBEY MARIKA'S MOTHER...

...MY INTENTION FROM THE START.

THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN...

I KNEW THAT EVENTUALLY THIS DAY WOULD COME.

ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, I'VE SWORN ALLEGIANCE TO YOU, MISTRESS MARIKA.

...

...MY MANY TRANS-GRESSIONS AGAINST YOU.

PLEASE FORGIVE...

SINCE WHEN... WHY...?

ARE YOU REALLY... HONDA?

...THIS IS THE BIGGEST SURPRISE OF THE DAY.

H-HON-ESTLY ...

WHY?

...

HONDA ...

JUST THAT...

...I WAS CHARGED WITH YOUR CARE EVER SINCE YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL.

NO SPECIAL REASON.

HOW COULD I WATCH YOU EVERY DAY...

THE STRENGTH AND BEAUTY OF HOW YOU LIVE...

Math

YOUR DILIGENCE, YOUR DEVOTION...

I'VE WITNESSED IT ALL.

...TO SUPPORT YOU?

...AND NOT WANT...

DON'T WORRY... WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE, MISTRESS.

SNAP !!

FOR MY OWN REASONS, I'VE STOOD IN YOUR WAY UP UNTIL NOW...

...BUT I'M CHANGING MY APPROACH.

...BUT WILL YOU HELP ME NOW?

TSU-GUMI!

I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES...

GAH!

OH MAN...WE HAVE TO FIGHT HONDA?!

SHOOP

THANK YOU.

IT'S GOOD TO HEAR YOUR TRUE FEELINGS.

GLADLY.

KLING

TMP

LET'S GO...!

NOW...

OVER HERE, ICHIJO! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

R-RIGHT!

OKAY, LET'S GET A MOVE ON!

KA-SHING

SHING

KA

BAM

EEK!

KLANG

SHING

KA-SHING-A-LING

KA-CHING

SHING

KA-SHING!

KLANG

TING

WATCH OUT, MARIKA! OVER HERE...!

SHOO!

ET TU?

HONDA...

WHY, MARIKA...

WHY...

AGH!

THEY'RE GOOD!

...BUT IT'S STILL TWO AGAINST ALL OF US!

SHE MAY BE THE BEST ...

SHOOP

BAM!

HONDAAA !!

MISS BOOBA-RIFIIIIIC!!

WALL...? ...??

BUST IT DOWN, WOULD-JA?!

THAT WALL!

FKOO!!

KA

BA

SH

WHP WHP WHP

WHP WHP

KLATTER KLATTER

CRUMBLE CRUMBLE

WHP WHP WHP

WHP WHP WHP

WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

KA

BOOM

I SEE!

SO THAT'S THE PLAN...

RAKU?!

RAKU DEAREST?!

STOP HER!! WHAT-EVER IT TAKES!!

DON'T LET HER ESCAPE !!

!

SHOOP

BACK ME UP!

I'LL CLEAR THE WAY FOR MARIKA TACHIBANA!

ROGER!

MISTRESS CHIKA... SHOUTING ?!

YES... ...MA'AM!

MARIKA TACHIBANAAA!!

!

CAN YOU MAKE IT?

YES!!

SHP!!

KLOP

TONK

RIPPA

RIP

RRRIP

RRIP

RRRIP

HAAAAA...

HFFFFFFF...

GLEAM

BA

AAAA

BA BA BA BAN

!!

FWOO

!!

SHOO

IHOO

BLOCK HER WAY!!

ATTACK !! EVERY-ONE!!

TACHI-BANA ...!!

NGH!

KA

SHOOSH

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

JUST KEEP RUNNING, TACHIBANA ...!!

?

...OVER...

GET...

...HERE!

BL AM

TMP!!

RAKU DEAR-EST ...!!

TMP!

WHA...

WHY MUST YOU...

WHY...

WHY...

TACHI-BANA ...!!

AAA

CLUB

SHIP!

TAK

WHY ARE YOU SO STRONG?

WHY...

WHP WHP WHP WHP

WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

UNLIKE ME....

Chapter 194: Not Even One

WHY...

WE HAVE TO GET THE OTHERS TOO.

YEP. NOW TO ESCAPE.

LEAVE IT TO ME!

I HAVE OUR ESCAPE ROUTE PLANNED!

WELL... WE MANAGED TO PULL IT OFF!

SHOOP

PLOP

YEESH...

I DID KINDA TRICK HIM.

...

I HOPE ICHIJO FORGIVES ME.

?

...MISTRESS CHITOGE TOO.

WE'VE GOT TO TELL...

I DON'T KNOW...

BUT I DOUBT HE'LL BLAME YOU FOR IT.

THAT'S JUST HOW HE IS.

CLATTER

Ouch!

NO...

SHALL WE GO AFTER HER?

NOW WHAT?

IT SEEMS ...

...THAT WON'T BE NECES-SARY.

SHE'S GONE...

PERHAPS IT'S TIME TO UNDO THE SHACKLES...

SHE HAS STRONG WINGS.

WE CAN'T KEEP THAT CHILD LOCKED UP IN A CAGE.

ON MARIKA...

...AND ON YOU TOO.

...YOU HAD YOUR OWN PRECIOUS HIGH SCHOOL MEMORIES.

EVEN FOR A SHORT TIME...

THAT'S WHY YOU LET HER GO TO BONYARI HIGH, ISN'T IT?

...IS BECAUSE YOU SEE YOURSELF IN HER.

THE REASON YOU'RE SO HARD ON HER...

YOU HAVE THE SAME POWER.

BUT SHE ISN'T ALONE.

...SHE'S TRYING TO FLY AWAY FROM YOU.

NOW...

WHY DON'T YOU GET OUT THERE AND STRUGGLE TOO?

IF YOU NEED HELP, I'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP

MM... LET'S JUST STAY LIKE THIS A BIT LONGER...

C'MON, SERIOUSLY?!

I don't know how to respond!!

MY ARMS ARE SHOT...

AAAGH... OH NOOO...

WHP WHP WHP WHP

WHP WHP WHP WHP

HFF!

HFF!

WAIT HERE!

WE'LL COME BACK FOR YOU LATER!

WHP WHP WHP WHP

TMP!

YES!

WHMP

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE PULLED THAT OFF!!

PHEW!! SO MANY CLOSE CALLS!!

DON'T WORRY.

I'M REALLY GRATEFUL.

...WHAT WITH THE RESPONSE I GAVE YOU...

I MEAN... FROM HERE ON OUT...

GEE... I FEEL BAD WHEN YOU'RE SO SINCERE LIKE THAT...

HONESTLY, I DIDN'T THINK WE'D HAVE THAT CHANCE.

I REALLY WAS GLAD...

...THAT YOU GAVE ME A DIRECT ANSWER.

WE'RE NOT SAFE HERE AND GETTING SOME DISTANCE WILL BUY US A LITTLE TIME...

WELL, I THINK WE SHOULD GO BACK TO BONYARI FOR STARTERS.

HUH?!

OH... RIGHT... WE NEED TO DISCUSS THAT!!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?

NOW, RAKU DEAREST ...

...AND YOUR MOTHER CAN'T GET TO YOU THERE...

YOU CAN'T GO HOME...

...SO YOU'LL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO NEGOTIATE.

I'll take her!!

Grr!

PROBABLY CHITOGE'S WOULD BE BETTER.

WHEN WE GET BACK, YOU CAN STAY WITH ME OR WITH CHITOGE.

I'LL DO EVERY-THING I CAN TO HELP TOO!

...BUT YOU CAN'T KEEP RUNNING AWAY FOREVER.

I KNOW HOW SHE IS, AND SHE MIGHT NOT BE READY RIGHT AWAY...

...BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO TALK THINGS OVER WITH YOUR MOM.

WE DIDN'T SUCCEED THIS TIME...

SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING...

WE'VE COME THIS FAR, SO I'M COMMITTED TO SEEING THIS THROUGH.

RAKU DEAREST ...

I TALKED TO YUI ABOUT IT, AND SHE KNOWS A REALLY GOOD DOCTOR.

WE'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL OF THAT!

OH! I JUST REMEMBERED YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION TOO!

HE SAID HE'D TAKE YOU ON AS A SPECIAL PATIENT.

I'M SORRY.

I CAN'T GO WITH YOU.

THANK YOU SO MUCH...

...FOR ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE.

WHA...?

...

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

IF THERE'S A PROBLEM, LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!!

IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED, WE'LL GET IT! I CAN DO THAT MUCH!

MY BODY...

...HAS REACHED ITS LIMIT.

?!

RAKU DEAREST...

I NEVER TOLD YOU THIS...

NO...

THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE.

YOUR BODY...

BUT WE KNOW A REALLY GOOD DOCTOR...

I HAVE BEEN SINCE I WAS LITTLE.

I'M SICK.

SICK...

I MANAGED TO KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL FOR SOME TIME WITH MEDICATION...

...BUT I'VE REACHED MY LIMIT.

IS IT A LIFE-OR-DEATH THING?

BUT... IT'S NOT LIKE IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME.

...WHAT TACHIBANA WAS ALWAYS HIDING FROM ME?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IS THIS...

I'D RATHER NOT SAY.

I'LL GET BETTER WITH PROPER TREATMENT.

NO. IT'S NOT THAT BAD YET.

BUT IT COULD BE IF I DON'T ATTEND TO IT.

THE HOSPITAL IS RUN...

...BY MY FAMILY.

?!

BUT THE TREATMENT IS QUITE SPECIALIZED.

I'LL HAVE TO BE HOSPITALIZED THERE FOR TWO YEARS.

THERE'S ONLY ONE HOSPITAL IN THE WORLD THAT CAN DO IT. IT'S IN PITTSBURGH, IN THE U.S.

...MY MOTHER WILL HAVE ME IN HER CONTROL AGAIN.

BUT WHEN I GO TO THAT HOSPITAL...

I NEED TO GET TREATMENT RIGHT AWAY.

...

WHA...

...AFTER ALL THAT YOU DID FOR ME.

I'M SO SORRY TO TELL YOU THIS...

...SO I WONDERED WHY SHE WAS DOING THIS.

BUT I UNDER-STAND NOW.

!!

MIKAGE KNEW ALL ALONG...

NO! IT WASN'T A WASTE!

NOT AT ALL!!

THEN... EVERYTHING WE DID...

...SO I COULD HAVE THIS MOMENT.

SHE DID IT...

AND SHE ALSO...

SHE KNEW...

...I WOULD NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN OTHERWISE.

...TO DO SOME-THING CRAZY FOR ME.

...SHOWED ME HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE WILLING...

BUT I HAVE HOPE NOW BECAUSE OF YOU.

THE HOPE I NEED TO MOVE FORWARD.

...I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE LOST HOPE.

IF THIS HADN'T HAPPENED, AND I'D BEEN FORCED TO MARRY THAT MAN...

...BUT I USED THOSE TWO YEARS FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT.

I COULD'VE GONE FOR TREATMENT SOONER...

...BEFORE WE WERE REUNITED...

...BUT HIGH SCHOOL WAS MUCH MORE FUN THAN I'D ANTICIPATED.

I MEANT TO SETTLE THINGS WITH YOU SOONER...

HIGH SCHOOL WAS A GAMBLE.

STOP...

I COULDN'T CHANGE HOW THINGS ARE, BUT I CHANGED HOW I FELT.

I CAN MOVE FORWARD NOW WITHOUT REGRETS.

THIS FEELS LIKE GOODBYE!

...

STOP...

I DON'T REGRET ANY OF IT.

I GOT A LOT OF GIFTS FROM IT I NEVER WOULD'VE GOTTEN OTHERWISE.

WE WON'T SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN...

...BUT I REALLY HAD A GREAT TIME.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

SO, PLEASE...

I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU.

...WE WEREN'T ABLE TO CHANGE ANYTHING?!

SO...

NOT A SINGLE THING!

RRRRRRRRING...!!

RRRRRING...

Chika Tachibana

拒否

応答

Chika Tachibana

RRRRRING...

H-HELLO...?

...

KLIK...

RRRRRII...

...

WHA...?

O

DO AS YOU LIKE.

THE TACHIBANA NAME WILL END WITH ME.

HUH?

NO NEED TO CARRY ON THE FAMILY NAME.

THERE'S NO NEED TO GET MARRIED.

I'M FED UP WITH YOU, AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE.

SO GO WHERE YOU WANT TO GO AND LIVE HOW YOU WANT TO LIVE.

AFTER YOUR ILLNESS IS CURED, YOU CAN DO AS YOU PLEASE.

IF IT DOESN'T SERVE PEOPLE NOW, IT'S LESS THAN WORTHLESS.

WHO CARES ABOUT TRADITION?

I WAS THINKING OF DOING THIS ANYWAY.

BZZZ

BZZZ

BZZZ

BZZZ

THAT'S ALL.

BYE.

KLIK

RA...

I...

RAKU DEAR-EST...

...ONLY A LITTLE BIT, BUT...

IT WAS...

...WE WERE ABLE TO CHANGE THINGS.

...IS IN AMERICA, RIGHT?

YOUR HOS-PITAL...

...GOOD-BYE.

DON'T CALL THIS...

...IT LOOKS LIKE...

LET'S SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN SOON, TACHIBANA.

SO...

WE'LL COME VISIT YOU.

ALL OF US.

YES...

YES!!

NONE OF IT...

IT WASN'T A WASTE.

YES.

I'VE PUT THIS OFF LONG ENOUGH.

YOU'RE REALLY LEAVING, MARIKA?

WHOOSH

Chapter 195: Bull's-Eye

HUB BUB

YOU NEVER QUIT, DO YOU?

IT'S ONLY FOR TWO YEARS.

OF COURSE, I'LL MISS YOU, RAKU DEAREST...

I-I-I HAD NO IDEA, MARIKA...

B-B-BUT... I-I-I...

You're not the one who's leaving...

MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU STOPPED CRYING?

SOB SOB

SNIFFLE

SO, ONODERA...

ANYWAY, THANK YOU ALL FOR EVERYTHING.

AND THANKS FOR TAKING THE TROUBLE TO SEE ME OFF.

THANK YOU.

I LOOK FORWARD TO IT. YOU HAVE GOOD TASTE IN BOOKS, MIYAMOTO.

IF YOU GET BORED IN THE HOSPITAL, I'LL SEND YOU A BOOK OR SOMETHING.

JUST SAY THE WORD.

SNF SNF

WELL, GOOD LUCK WITH EVERYTHING!

AT LEAST WE'LL GET SOME PEACE AND QUIET AROUND HERE FINALLY!

WELL!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO MISS ME THAT MUCH, SHALL I CALL YOU EVERY DAY?

NO THANK YOU!

WELL...

SO LONG...

...MARIKA.

YES.

SO LONG.

YEAH.

HUH? OH, SURE.

OKAY, I'LL COME TOO...

C'MON, EVERYONE!

I SAW A SOUVENIR SHOP I WANTED TO CHECK OUT.

SOOO...

But she still has more time...

Shh. Just come, okay?

HUH?

GRRR!

YOU STAY HERE!!

HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU?

RAKU DEAR-EST...

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR EVERYTHING.

NAH. NO BIG DEAL.

WELL, SHE'S FULL OF SURPRISES.

YEAH... ...

IS THAT SO?

...

IT WAS ALL OF US.

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING SO IMPORTANT.

MOST OF ALL, IT ALL WORKED OUT BECAUSE YOU WERE SO BRAVE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

?

WHAT NOW?

SO, RAKU DEAREST...

C1

BL

RE!

ARE YOU GOING TO CONFESS YOUR FEELINGS TO ONODERA?

W...

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?!

WELL, YOU REJECTED ME, RAKU DEAREST.

NOW I'D LIKE YOU TO PROPERLY ADDRESS YOUR OWN LOVE LIFE!

YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON ONODERA, RIGHT?

SO YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE A MOVE!

KOFF KOFF!

KOFF...

REAL-LY?

I HOPE SO...

I KNOW I NEED TO SUMMON MY COURAGE SOON.

I DON'T WANT TO JUST LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS EITHER.

...YOU'LL GIVE ME A SINCERE ANSWER...

I HOPE...

LET ME ASK YOU ONE MORE THING.

THEN ...

TMP

?

...ABOUT KIRISAKI?

HOW DO YOU FEEL...

HUH?

...

WELL...

WHAT ABOUT HER?

WHAT ABOUT KIRISAKI?

SO...

I KNOW YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR ONODERA.

HOW...

WHAT DO YOU...

W-W-WHY DID I JUST...

...SEE HER FACE?!

ONODERA OR KIRISAKI ?

...DO YOU LIKE NOW...

WHO...

!!

I DON'T THINK...

...YOU SEE KIRISAKI AS JUST A FRIEND.

I-I DON'T HAVE...

...ANY SPECIAL FEELINGS ...

ARE YOU SURE?

SO YOU'RE SAYING...

...SHE'S JUST A FRIEND?

SO...HOW COULD I...

YOU KNOW I LIKE ONODERA, RIGHT?!

W...

W-W-W-WAIT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...!

WELL...

...

AS A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX, CAN YOU STATE UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ROMANTIC FEELINGS FOR HER?

CAN YOU SAY THAT?

...YOUR ANSWER?

ISN'T THIS...

HOW YOU REALLY FEEL...

ISN'T IT TIME YOU NOTICED?

AND ADMITTED IT TO YOURSELF?

OF COURSE, I KNOW THOSE FEELINGS ARE REAL.

YES.

I HAVE SINCERE FEELINGS FOR ONODERA ...!!

I MEAN, ONODERA ...?!

NO...

THAT CAN'T BE...!!

YOU STILL DON'T GET IT?

RAKU DEAREST ...

THEN I'LL SAY IT RIGHT OUT.

REALLY?! WAS IT THAT OBVIOUS?!

I'm so embarrassed !!

I GOT A REAL EYEFUL EVERY DAY.

HEH HEH HEH

Day after day, I was gutted.

...BOTH OF THEM.

YOU LIKE...

IT'S HARDLY UNUSUAL!

WHY...

BOTH AT ONCE?!

HOW CAN THAT EVEN BE POSSIBLE?!

...

WHA...

BUT, RAKU DEAREST ...

YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THE TRUTH TO YOURSELF BEFORE YOU MAKE A DECISION.

SO THAT YOU DON'T END UP WITH REGRETS.

I HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED IT MYSELF...

...BUT I DO HEAR ABOUT IT HAPPENING.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT, *IN AND OF ITSELF.*

HUH?!

SO THAT'S YOUR HOMEWORK!

IF YOU'RE STILL WAFFLING ON THIS TWO YEARS FROM NOW WHEN I GET BACK...

...I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE YOU MINE FOR REAL! ♡

EVEN IN THE HOSPITAL, I CAN CONTINUE TO WORK ON MYSELF!

I'LL COME BACK MORE ATTRACTIVE AND AMAZING THAN EVER!!

WHAT? DOES THAT SURPRISE YOU?!

DO YOU THINK I'M THE TYPE OF WOMAN WHO GIVES UP AFTER BEING REJECTED ONCE?!

HUH?

...I GO RIGHT FOR THE BULL'S-EYE. ♡

LIKE I SAID...

NEXT TIME, I'M GOING TO REALLY PUT THE MOVES ON YOU AND ***NOT HOLD BACK*** LIKE I HAVE BEEN!

I'M FREE NOW, THANKS TO YOU, RAKU DEAREST!!

YOU WERE HOLDING BACK?!

For real?!

OH... WOW, TIME JUST FLEW...

I'D BETTER GET GOING.

WELL, IT'S ALMOST TIME.

HUH? FOR REAL?

LET ME FIX IT FOR YOU.

OH! RAKU DEAREST, YOUR HAIR IS SUPER MESSED UP IN THE FRONT!

Departures

I LOVE YOUUUU!!

TAKE CARE, RAKU DEAREST!

TACHI-BANA...

YOU'RE SUCH A STRONG PERSON...

PARDON THE INTRU-SION.

ASKING TO ACCOMPANY ME...

YOU'RE CERTAINLY A GLUTTON FOR PUNISH-MENT.

PHEW ...

YOUR PHYSICAL WELL-BEING IS MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.

...

YOU COULD'VE HELPED ME OUT SOONER, YOU KNOW!

Phooey!

SO...

WERE YOU ON MY SIDE FROM THE START?

I APPRECIATE WHAT ICHIJO AND YOUR FRIENDS DID.

EVEN IF YOU'D BEEN FORCED INTO MARRYING AGAINST YOUR WILL AND NEVER SEEING YOUR FRIENDS AGAIN...

...I WOULD'VE MADE SURE YOU SOUGHT TREATMENT RIGHT AWAY.

AFTER ALL, YOU MIGHT NEED ME FOR SOME-THING.

SHE GRANTED ME PERMISSION TO ACCOMPANY YOU.

I NEVER THOUGHT ANYONE COULD CHANGE YOUR MOTHER'S MIND...

BUT I NEVER ANTICIPATED THIS KIND OF A FUTURE FOR YOU.

THANK YOU.

...BUT IF YOU INSIST, I'LL JUST HAVE TO PUT YOU TO WORK!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I DID TO EARN SUCH DEVOTION...

WELL!

IT'S SHINOBU.

YOU KNOW IT.

NO.

HONDA...

WILL YOU TELL ME YOUR FIRST NAME?

WHAT WAS YOUR NAME BEFORE THAT?

THAT'S YOUR OFFICIAL TITLE THAT ACKNOWLEDGES YOU AS THIS GENERATION'S SHADOW GUARD LEADER, RIGHT?

IT'S YOKO.

NOW, YOKO...

WILL YOU HAVE A LOOK AT THIS?

FWMP!

FROM NOW ON, THAT'S WHAT I'LL CALL YOU.

THAT'S A SUR- PRISINGLY CUTE NAME!

WELL!

IF YOU PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD, I'LL HAVE TO STOP YOU.

...

I'LL BE THE ULTIMATE LADY BY THE TIME I GET BACK!

WHUD

MY PLAN FOR MY SELF-IMPROVEMENT REGIME IN THE HOSPITAL!

...I HAVE A PLACE I WANT TO COME HOME TO NOW.

EVEN IF I DON'T END UP WITH RAKU DEAREST...

BUT NOT ANYMORE.

RAKU DEAREST WAS MY EVERY-THING FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

THERE'S NO NEED NOW.

I KNOW. I WON'T PUSH MYSELF TOO HARD ANYMORE.

I'LL COME HOME AGAIN...

Come Home To Us!!

I PROMISE ...

Of course.
SNIFFLE
Please face the other way for a little while.
Yoko...

BZZZ

BZZZ

SEVERAL DAYS AFTER MARIKA LEFT FOR THE U.S....

Chapter 196: Be Brave

SNUGGLE

MM...

A TEXT?

BZZZ BZZZ

...OUR LIVES WERE JUST GETTING BACK TO NORMAL.

WHEN SHE SAID SHE'D TEXT, I DIDN'T KNOW IT'D BE EVERY DAY!

KLIK KLIK

GLAD SHE SEEMS TO BE IN GOOD SPIRITS...

KLIK

BAM!

WHOA?!

TACHI-BANA'S SENT ME THIS MANY TEXT MESSAGES ...?!

Inbox 12 msgs

Marika Tachibana: Good morning! Are you having breakfast? ♡

Marika Tachibana: The stars are beautiful here! ♡ Wish you could see...

Marika Tachibana: All of my belongings have arrived over here, and my life here is...

SEE YA!

EVEN SO...

...THE LAST THING TACHIBANA SAID TO ME KEPT ECHOING IN MY HEAD.

ISN'T IT TIME YOU NOTICED?

RAKU DEAR-EST...

YOU LIKE BOTH OF THEM.

"...ABOUT KIRISAKI?"

"HOW DO YOU FEEL...

WHEN SHU SAID IT, I WAS ABLE TO JUST DENY IT.

"I LIKE ONO-DERA."

"IT'S NOT TRUE.

HYEEK?!

MORNING, DARLING!

PAT

...I'M NOT SO SURE HOW I FEEL MYSELF.

BUT NOW...

WELL, DON'T SPEND ALL YOUR ENERGY WORRYING. YOU'LL GET OLD BEFORE YOUR TIME!!

YEAH... I GUESS SO...

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING SERIOUS ON YOUR MIND.

THAT'S MY LINE!

Phew!!

O-OH... CHITOGE ... YOU STARTLED ME...

BUT BOTH SHU AND TACHI-BANA SEE IT DIFFER-ENTLY.

COULD THEY BE RIGHT?

I TOLD MYSELF ...

...THAT CHITOGE WAS ONE OF MY CLOSEST FRIENDS.

SO THAT'S YOUR HOME-WORK!

DIIING DOOONG

...

SHEESH... WONDER WHEN I'LL MANAGE TO TURN IN THAT HOMEWORK.

SIGH...

Put stuff to send to Princess Tachibana here!! —The Dark Knights

FS

HH

MATSU... CIDER

EVERY NOW AND THEN, I HAVE A SODA PHASE.

NO WAY! I NEVER KNEW THAT.

KTUNK

You always drink tea.

HUH?

YOU'RE DRINKING SODA? THAT'S UNUSUAL.

OF COURSE, HER HEALTH HAS TO COME FIRST...

...

YEAH.

TACHIBANA HAD SO MUCH ENERGY... IT'S LONELY WITHOUT HER.

FSHH

...THAT I LIKE CHITOGE?

DO YOU STILL THINK...

IF ONLY IT WERE THAT EASY!

DID YOU FIGURE IT OUT?

SO, ABOUT THAT...

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT BOTH MARIKA AND I ARE TOTALLY MISTAKEN.

THE ANSWER IS INSIDE OF YOU AND NOWHERE ELSE.

ULTIMATELY, YOU HAVE TO DECIDE.

LOVE CAN TAKE A LOT OF DIFFERENT FORMS.

I KNOW I'M THE ONE WHO BROUGHT IT UP IN THE FIRST PLACE...

HM...

...BUT I'D RATHER NOT COMMENT FROM HERE ON OUT.

...IT'S NOT REALLY FAIR TO MARIKA, IS IT?

OTHER-WISE...

ANY-WAY...

I THINK YOU DO HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO REALLY THINK IT THROUGH.

I KNOW...

...SHU'S RIGHT.

...

I KNOW.

GASP

TAK

OH!

THIS IS OUR FIRST REAL CHANCE TO TALK SINCE...

But we have said hello ...

RURI HAS AN AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY.

SO DOES CHITOGE ...

WHERE'S MIYA-MOTO?

YES... YOU TOO, ONO-DERA?

ICHIJO... ARE YOU HEADED HOME?

ONODERA ...!!

W-WHAT SHOULD I SAY...

O-OH MAN... NOW WHAT? I FEEL EXTRA AWKWARD...

HUH ...?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WALK SOME OF THE WAY HOME TOGETHER?

UM... ICHIJO?

WHSHHH

YEAH...

WELL, IT'S ALMOST MARCH.

IT'S STARTING TO WARM UP A BIT.

YEAH. WE'LL HAVE TO STUDY FOR OUR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS.

MARCH! WE'LL BE THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS SOON!

LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT!

Ugh...

OF COURSE I DO. I'VE HAD A CRUSH ON HER FOR YEARS.

WHEN I'M WITH ONODERA LIKE THIS, IT'S SO CLEAR TO ME THAT I LIKE HER.

SO WHY...

YOU REALLY WENT FOR IT!

YEAH... I HEARD ABOUT WHAT YOU DID!

I WAS KIND OF IN A PANIC...

IT SEEMS LIKE A LONG TIME AGO...ALL THAT STUFF AT MARIKA'S HOUSE.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS JUST A FEW DAYS AGO.

WELL, IT WAS ALL PRETTY SURREAL, THAT'S FOR SURE.

IT WAS BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU DID!

IF YOU HADN'T ACTED, NOTHING WOULD'VE CHANGED...

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

WE WERE JUST LUCKY MARIKA'S MOTHER CHANGED HER MIND.

I DIDN'T DO HER ANY GOOD...

BUT IN THE END, IT DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD.

MOST PEOPLE DON'T REALLY GO ALL OUT FOR THEIR FRIENDS LIKE THAT.

IT WAS LIKE THAT WITH CHITOGE TOO.

I...

I THINK YOU'RE AMAZING.

THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU, ICHIJO...

HEY...

...DID YOU TURN MARIKA DOWN?

WHY...

HUH?

...

...I'M SURE I'D FIND HER VERY ATTRACTIVE.

IF I WERE A BOY...

SO, I JUST WONDERED WHY...

SHE TRIED SO HARD.

AND SHE WAS SO CRAZY ABOUT YOU.

AND SHE'S VERY BEAUTIFUL.

...I THINK MARIKA'S REALLY AMAZING.

AS A GIRL...

...IF MAYBE ...

...YOU LIKE SOMEONE ELSE?

I WAS JUST WONDER-ING...

NO DEEP MEANING OR ANYTHING!

I-I'M JUST CURIOUS, YOU KNOW?!

I MEAN, OH, WHAT A SUR-PRISE...!

O-OH! WELL, THAT'S G...

OF COURSE NOT!!

N-N-N-NO WAY! NOBODY!!

I GUESS I JUST DIDN'T SEE HER THAT WAY.

I THINK TACHIBANA'S A GREAT GIRL.

BUT... NOW THAT YOU BRING IT UP, I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

OH... I'M JUST A REGULAR GUY!

SOMEONE WHO'S NICE AND CONSIDERATE AND STUFF...

I CAN'T SAY IT.

A GIRL LIKE YOU, ONODERA...

OH...

Making mental notes!

WELL, WHAT KIND OF GIRL DO YOU LIKE, ICHIJO?

I ALWAYS WISHED I WERE MORE LIKE MARIKA.

YOU KNOW...

I THINK THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING.

I WISH I COULD BE LIKE THAT TOO.

...AND EXPRES-SES HERSELF ...

THE WAY SHE GOES AFTER WHAT SHE WANTS...

...AND ISN'T EMBARRASSED TO SAY HOW SHE FEELS...

DO YOU LIKE ANYONE, ONODERA?

UM...

ULF ?!

N-N-NO!!

I JUST FOUND IT REALLY IMPRESSIVE HOW SHE WAS...!

Ha ha ha...

?

...HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO MAKE AN EFFORT.

MARIKA SHOWED ME...

...

IT MADE ME WANT TO BE BRAVE.

WILL YOU WATCH ME?

HUH?

SO, ICHIJO ...

I'M GOING TO REALLY BE BRAVE.

I KNOW YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT NOW, BUT EVENTUALLY YOU WILL!

...WILL YOU WATCH ME?

SO UNTIL THEN...

??

SEE YOU, ICHIJO!

THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.

WOW...

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT ??

I'm totally confused... Not to mention flustered...

MARIKA...

I WON'T LET YOU OUTDO ME!

BEEP

BEEP

MIS-TRESS !!

TIME FOR DINNER!

To: Bean Sprout

Hey darling! About our date tomorrow...

BAM!!

I'M GOING TO GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT!

Hey darling! About our date tomorrow...
Hmm... What should I write next?
Your presence is cordially requested at...
No, that's not right! I forgot how to write a normal text!

From
To Bean Sprout
Sub Tomorrow

Hey, darling!
About our date
tomorrow...

OH!

A TEXT FROM CHITOGE...

RIGHT... WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO ON OUR REGULAR DATE TOMORROW.

Chapter-197:-Cheer-Up

NO...

MAYBE THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.

RAKU DEAR-EST...

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT KIRISAKI?

ONCE AGAIN, I FEEL AWKWARD FACING HER...

OUR REGULAR DATE...

WHAT IS CHITOGE TO ME, ANYWAY?

I CAN USE THIS DATE...

...TO FIGURE OUT HOW I FEEL.

TWEET

TWEET

GOOD MORNING, DARLING!

ARE SHU AND TACHIBANA RIGHT?

FWISH

OH!

GOOD M...

I'VE GOT TO FIGURE THIS OUT...!

NO, IT'S OKAY.

HM... YOU KINDA GOT ALL DOLLED UP, NO?

WHAT'S THE OCCA-SION?

YOU THINK SO?

I'M THE SAME AS EVER.

SORRY, WERE YOU WAITING LONG?

IT'S TRUE, SHE USUALLY DOES DRESS WELL. AM I JUST SENSITIVE TO IT RIGHT NOW?

...

A-AM I IMAGING THINGS? OR DOES SHE LOOK CUTER THAN USUAL?

I'M GLAD I MADE AN EXTRA EFFORT TODAY...

WAIT A SEC. I ALREADY KNEW SHE WAS CUTE.

THE QUESTION ISN'T HER SUPERFICIAL APPEARANCE. IT'S HOW I FEEL TOWARD HER.

SHAKA SHAKA

...SHE'S AN AMAZING GIRL.

NAMELY...

WITH MARIKA GONE, ONE THING IS SUPER CLEAR.

IF SHE SAW ME BEING ALL TIMID, SHE'D TOTALLY LAUGH AT ME!

ALL THE MORE REASON NOT TO LET HER OUTDO ME!!

WELL, I CAN DO BETTER!

SHP

WE ALWAYS BICKERED BECAUSE I WAS PRETENDING TO BE RAKU'S GIRLFRIEND...

COMPARED TO HOW HARD SHE TRIED, I HAVEN'T DONE A THING YET.

...BUT DEEP DOWN, I WAS ALWAYS KINDA ENVIOUS OF HER.

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION FOR A MOMENT, RAKU?

OH... KOFF KOFF...

IT'S ONLY 9 A.M.!

I DON'T SEE WHY WE HAD TO MEET SO EARLY.

SO, FOR TODAY'S GOAL...

It's chilly!

LOOK, JUST PIPE DOWN AND FOLLOW MY LEAD, OKAY?

OKAY...

W-WHAT'S UP?

ARE YOU PLOTTING SOME-THING AGAIN?

FOR TODAY'S DATE, I'LL LEAD EVERY-THING.

HUH?

IS THAT WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING AGAIN?

LAST TIME, SHE CAME UP WITH A WHOLE PLAN BASED ON THE STUFF I LIKE...

WHAT'S SHE THINK-ING?

KLOP

KLOP

HERE WE ARE!

OKAY!

ZOOOOM

AIEEEEEE!

EEE EEE

WHOOOSH

AAAH!

AIIEEK!

EEEK!

SWHOOO!!

VWOOSH!!

BONYARICOASTERLAND

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO CHECK IT OUT!

IT'S A BRAND-NEW THEME PARK WITH NOTHING BUT ROLLER COASTERS!

EEK!

HA HA!

WELL? FUN, RIGHT?

BON-YARI...

...COASTER-LAND?

...A DATE THAT WILL CHEER UP RAKU!!

?

BA—BAM

WHAT DO YOU SAY? SUPER FUN, RIGHT?

ARE YOU EXCITED?

HUH?

OH... SURE...

MY GOAL TODAY IS...

YES...

WE'LL DO LOTS OF FUN STUFF TODAY: THAT'LL PERK HIM UP!

Well, whatta ya know...

HE'S BEEN KINDA GLOOMY EVER SINCE MARIKA LEFT.

WHAT ?!

WE'RE STAYING ALL DAY?!

I GOT US FREE PASSES SO WE CAN RIDE ALL DAY!

Loopity-loop!

I HEAR THERE'S A SUPER TWISTY-TURNY ONE!

C'MON, LET'S GO!

HA HA!!

WHAT ARE YOU, SCARED?

Tee hee

MAYBE NOT SO MUCH THAT I WANT TO GO ROUND AND ROUND ALL DAY LONG.

SURE... BUT...

I MEAN, SURE, WHY NOT?

YEAH! DON'TCHA LIKE ROLLER COASTERS?

WHOOSH!

SIGH...

YOU REALLY ARE A BEAN SPROUT, YOU KNOW THAT?

YOU OKAY?

ANYONE WHO RIDES 30 ROLLER COASTERS IN TWO HOURS WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS!

ZIIING

THAT WAS WAAAY LOOPIER THAN I THOUGHT POSSIBLE...

EVEN I'M SURPRISED BY HOW LOOPY THAT WAS...

YEAH...

GUESS I'D BETTER MODIFY THE PLAN.

HM... THAT DIDN'T REALLY CHEER HIM UP.

YEAH. IT'S USUALLY JUST GIRLS OR JUST GUYS.

HUH... WE'VE NEVER GONE TO KARAOKE TOGETHER.

KARAOKE

SOMETHING MORE UPBEAT!

YEAH! AND NO JAPANESE FOLK SONGS TODAY, GOT THAT?

BAM!

WHAT, YOU'RE CUTTING ME OFF?

YOU'RE PUMPED, HUH?

PUT IN SOME SONGS!

OKAY! LET'S GET THE PARTY GOING!

BUT TODAY, FOR RAKU'S SAKE, I WANT SOMETHING UPLIFTING ...

... ENER-GETIC ... EXCIT-ING...

Hmmm...

HM... I USUALLY SING POP SONGS...

.....

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA SING?

CHITOGE... CAN YOU TONE IT DOWN A BIT...

AND SHE'S SO LOUD!!

THE JUNGLE!

CLONG

CHIIII-TOOO-GEEE!!!

NA NA NA NA

SHA NA NA

HARD ROCK?! WHY?!

SHANA NANA NANA NA!!

WEL-COME TO THE JUNGLE!!

NO REASON.

HOW COME YOU'RE SO LISTLESS?

HOW DO I CHEER HIM UP?

GEE... THIS ISN'T GOING SO WELL.

DING

NOTHING LIKE EXERCISE TO BEAT THE BLUES!

SHE MUST REALLY NEED TO BLOW OFF STEAM...

BATTING CENTE

CLEARLY SHE'S NOT CATERING TO MY TASTES THIS TIME...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HER DEAL IS TODAY.

Get ready for a homer!!

IS THIS REALLY A DATE PLACE?

SURE. IT'S FUN, SO WHY NOT, RIGHT?

THERE'S ONLY ONE MACHINE OPEN, SO WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE TURNS.

WHSH

THOK

HRGH!

80 km/hr

KA

SMAK

THERE!

160 km/hr

YOU'RE PATHETIC. YOU SURE YOU'RE A DUDE?

HOLD STILL A SEC.

HUH?

QUIT LOOKING AT ME LIKE YOU CAN'T BELIEVE I MISSED THAT.

It's my first time!!

HEY!

...

WHEN WE STAND LIKE THIS...

...I CAN FEEL... YOUR...

BESIDES ...

YOU CAN FEEL...

...MY WHAT?

?

W-WAIT! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

YEAH, BUT THIS IS EMBAR-RASSING!

YOUR FORM SUCKS!

YOU WANT TO HIT THE BALL, RIGHT?

AFTER THAT...

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

CLOBBER!

YOU SCUM-DOG!!

Rakuuu!

I heard you like this band...

Never heard of them...

Bad intel?!

How is it? Japanese sweets with an energy drink booster!

...VARIOUS PLANS WERE ATTEMPTED ...

KRR

RRAK

I SWEAR I'M NOT! IT'S NOT MY FAULT!!

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO BREAK ME...

CHITOGE... ARE YOU TRYING TO GET BACK AT ME FOR SOMETHING?

HM...

I'M DOING MY BEST!

UGH... WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

I JUST WANTED TO CHEER HIM UP!

TWITCH

MUTTER

YOU'RE AS VIOLENT AND ROWDY AS EVER, I SEE.

YEESH. JUST WHEN I THOUGHT SHE WAS GETTING A BIT MORE LADYLIKE...

WHO'S VIOLENT AND ROWDY?!

MA-WA-M!!

SHOO

Oops...

I AM!!

BOMP

FLINCH

Waah! I did it again!

I DON'T GET IT!

SHEESH! WHAT'S WITH YOU TODAY?!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR DEAL IS!

UH...

RAKU... YOU OKAY?

Whoops!

WHAT GIVES?!

RUN ME RAGGED AND CLOBBER ME?

TRYING TO WHAT?

U

WELL...

I WAS TRYING...

?

WHAT?

BUT...I WAS REALLY DOING MY BEST...

I'M SORRY I HIT YOU...

WHAT?!

HEY, WAIT...

I'M GOING HOME!!

IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, FORGET IT!

SHU...

I THINK YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.

AND TACHIBANA...

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?!

...

...HOW COULD I HAVE A THING FOR SUCH A MANIAC?!

I LIKE CHITOGE ALL RIGHT...

BUT AS FAR AS ROMANCE GOES...

...

GUESS I'LL HEAD HOME.

I'D JUST...

IF I DID DEVELOP FEELINGS FOR HER...

PLUS, SHE LIKES SOMEONE.

Ramen

MAYBE I'LL GET SOME RAMEN.

Even though it's kinda early.

COME TO THINK OF IT, I TOLD THE GUYS I WOULDN'T NEED DINNER.

OH!

BLRF!!

WHSH

HEY THERE.

I'LL HAVE THE USUAL...

HUH?

Volume 22--Bulls's-Eye/END

Gee, she's really getting into the role...
We hope you'll read VOLUME 23 too!
GLRFF!
Now I really wanna know what happens in volume 23!
Geez, talk about suspense-ful!
HRGLL!!
BLRFF!

NISEKOI

4TH YEAR!!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, EVERY-BODY!!

CONGRATS, NISEKOI, ON YOUR FOURTH YEAR!

COME ON, DON'T SWEAT THE DETAILS. THAT'D BE DUMB.

DUMB ...?!

HUH? DIDN'T YOU GO TO THE U.S.?

IS IT OKAY TO SAY THIS?

HOORAY!!

LATELY, THE STORY HAS BEEN PRETTY SERIOUS AND HEAVY, SO TODAY'LL BE MORE FUN!

Yay!

Yay!

C'mon, get happy!

WHA-?!

For real?!

GO HOME.

BY THE WAY, NO BOYS ALLOWED.

Huh?

LET'S GET THIS FOURTH ANNIVERSARY PARTY STARTED!

From *Weekly Shonen Jump* vol. 53, 2015

A monster's been reported in Battari Town!

You're to report to the site immediately, Haru!

Roger that, Windle!

These days when I reach the site, the monster's already been defeated.

I suppose it must be the work of that legendary trio...

Yes, probably.

We'll just have to try harder!

Magical Chocolatier Haru!!!

There's nobody around, right?

Sure! The coast's clear!

Guess I'd better transform. Close your eyes, please.

FLASH!!

Okay, then! Traaansform!

Listen, you can't keep letting that sort of thing get to you if you want to make it big!

I know it's an important job, but it's embarrassing! I mean, when I transform...

But if I show my face too often, my family might find out about my double life!

How will I ever explain it to my sister?

FWOW

AH

KLIK

KLIK

KLIK

KLIK

KLIK

FLASH

!!

SH

HA
RU
!!!

TRANSFORMATION COMPLETE!

MAGICAL CHOCOLATIER

TA-DA!

Nah... You probably just imagined it.

CHOMPA CHOMPA

A clicking sound?

Hey... You didn't hear a weird sound when I was transforming, did you?

THE FATEFUL CHANCE ENCOUNTER!

FIVE-SECOND COUNTDOWN!!